



News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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2007 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA - Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 6.7 million pounds during 2007. This was 14 percent above the 2006 production of 5.9 million. The number of Federally and Non-Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 27 on January 1, 2008, an increase of 1 plant from January 1, 2007.

West Virginia with 2006 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** - 9.93 million pounds, up 16 percent.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 9,400 head, up 16 percent.
- **Pork production** - 2.14 million pounds, up 16 percent.
- **Hogs slaughtered** - 8,400 head, up 17 percent.
- **Mutton and lamb production** - 50 thousand pounds, up 19 percent.
- **Sheep and lambs slaughtered** - 500 head, up 25 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2007 was 1054 pounds, down 11 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 255 pounds, down 2 pounds. The average live weight for sheep and lambs was 106 pounds, up 5 pounds.

Calf slaughter information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

UNITED STATES - Total red meat production for the United States totaled 48.8 billion pounds in 2007, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 48.7 billion pounds. **On-farm** production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 146 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 22.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 188 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2006.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2007 totaled 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from 2006, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,269 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 51.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, **heifers** 30.3 percent, **dairy cows** 7.4 percent, **other cows** 9.4 percent, and **bulls** 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 758,100 head, 7 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 303 pounds, down 39 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 109.2 million head, 4 percent higher than 2006 with 99.1 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 269 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.5 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.69 million head, was down slightly from the previous year with 93.9 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from 2006 at 136 pounds. **Lambs and yearlings** comprised 95.4 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2008 compared with 795 last year. Of these, 626 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2007 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 11 largest plants accounting for 51 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 comprised 68 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2007, similar to 2006.